

Library

CHESTERTON RURAL DISTRICT

in the

Administrative County of Cambridgeshire



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Including Report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector

for

1954

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GENERAL STATISTICAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Area: Land	111,692 acres
Number of Parishes	52
Rateable Value: (1.4.55)	.. .. .	£159,508
Sum represented by a penny rate	.. .. .	£633
Number of inhabited houses according to the Rate Books	.. .. .	12,032
Estimated mid-year Home Population	.. .. .	40,290
Census Population 1951	.. .. .	38,645

The district is agricultural and the main occupations are those associated with farming, fruit growing and jam making.

Birth Rate	14.7
(Corrected)	15.9

Death Rate	11.0
(Corrected)	9.7

Infant Mortality Rate	15.2
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PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Chairman: Councillor Capt. F. Johnson, J.P.

Vice-Chairman: Councillor H. K. Stroude.

Councillors:

Adams, F., J.P.	Leach, W., J.P.
Austin, W. H.	Ledgard, Rev. T. C.
Aves, L. H.	Macfarlane-Grieve, G. M., M.A.
Barker, R.	Milton, Mrs. M. L.
Brown, Mrs. M.	Newton, Maj. Gen. T. C.
Cairns, Mrs. R. M.	Norman, C. A.
Cheason, Mrs. A. M.	Pease, M. S., M.A.
Clayden, Lt. Col. H. W.	Peel-Yates, Mrs. M.
Cole, C. W. H.	Porteous, Mrs. D.
Cundell, A.	Robinson, T. B.
Currington, H. G.	Robinson, W. F.
Field, R. J.	Thulborn, R. W.
Flinders, F. W.	Waddelow, H. G.
Francis, Col. J. C. W.	Walker, D. L.
Fry, H. F.	Walkling, E. J.
Hayhow, A.	Watson, J. G.
Hurrell, Mrs. M.	Wilkin, S. W., J.P.
Jopling, J., M.B.E.	Wordingham, S. L. C.
Law, W. H.	

To the Chairman and Members
of the
Chesterton Rural District Council

Ladies and Gentlemen,

This report has been prepared in accordance with Ministry of Health circular 28/54 dated 15th December 1954, and the information requested follows closely that which has been required in the three previous years.

The population of the district has now passed 40,000 and stands in fact at 40,290 persons which compares with a population of 30,924 in 1934. The vital statistics reveal a slight regression as compared with the exceptionally good figures of the previous year. This need not be considered disturbing, it is in fact not an unlikely event; the trend in the figures over a number of years is more significant of change and this will be examined in due course. The *birth rate* is 14.7 births per thousand population as compared with 15.8 last year. The *death rate* stands at 11 deaths per thousand population whereas it was 10.5. The *infant mortality rate*, infant deaths under one year per thousand live births, at 15.2 compares with 11.2 last year but does not exceed any of the years' figures from 1948. With regard to the infant deaths 7 of the 9 which occurred were in the first four weeks of life. It is in this period that the great majority of infant deaths now take place and their causes are often congenital in origin or due to prematurity.

No major outbreaks of infectious disease occurred but there was a further increase in the number of cases of *scarlet fever* notified. There also occurred a small outbreak of *Sonne dysentery* in a boarding school.

Consideration of the improvements over the years in environmental hygiene, in which this Council has been in the forefront, is exemplified by that part of the report describing the work of the sanitary inspectors. The preventive services in this country are built upon the foundation of the triad of medical officer of health, sanitary inspector and health visitor. In the field of environmental hygiene it is particularly important to realise the changes which have taken place both in the character and complexity of the duties and functions of the sanitary inspectorate since its inception in the 19th Century. Broadly the change has been from that of being a law enforcement officer to that of health educator with all that that difference implies. It is seen for example in the difference between ordering and enforcing the repair of a leaking roof and the discussion with a landlord seeking the inspectors' advice on the best way to improve a property and bring it more into line with the accepted present day standards of housing accommodation; between arranging the disinfection of a room after a case of infectious disease and the education of food handlers in methods to prevent the occurrence of food poisoning; the difference between the eradication in the 19th Century of gross causes of ill health and the present day complicated task of appraising and interpreting the many factors which we have learned influence a community's health; between doing things for the people and doing things with the people who themselves learn the value of the precept. With this change in character of duty there has also come increased functions which have once more been recently added to by the advent of legislation calling for an active and intensified policy in the field of housing, especially toward existing property; the return to private enterprise of slaughtering for human consumption; and an 'educational' attitude toward raising the standards of food hygiene. During the latter part of the year the Council gave consideration to the appointment of a further sanitary inspector which would increase the staff of the public health department to four inspectors. This it has been decided to do and it is hoped the fourth inspector will commence duty in the summer of 1955.

There was a further increase in the number of houses completed this year, 299 as against 184 in 1953. A substantial decrease in the number of occupied hutments, from 186 to 122, is recorded. Reference is made in the report to the housing needs of an ageing population. Following a conference upon this subject the Council is now proceeding with a scheme which will provide 8 one room, 6 one bedroom, and 4 two bedroom bungalows; one of the two bedroom units would be reserved for a 'warden'.

The Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954 has called for a survey of houses in the area with a view to slum clearance programmes. For some years the Council has actively dealt with individual unfit houses but there remains a large number of houses unfit for human habitation and the survey is aimed at determining how many houses will need complete replacement over a period.

Progress continues with the Council's sewerage schemes though disappointment must be expressed that despite a deputation to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government, permission has not yet been given for the completion of the whole of Contract 5 (Stapleford, Little Shelford and part of Great Shelford).

The necessity for strict supervision of milk supplies is exemplified by the results of samples taken this year, in one instance a supply was found to be infected with the organism of tuberculosis and in three instances with *Brucella abortus*. The law relating to milk generally is in need of consolidation and revision. At present it is extremely complex and there are far too many authorities having one or more functions with regard to some aspect of the commodity.

The return in the summer to private enterprise of slaughtering of animals for human consumption also meant a resumption by local sanitary authorities of their duties with regard to the licensing of slaughterhouses and meat inspection; two most important public health duties in the larger field of food hygiene. In making provision in the area for adequate slaughtering facilities meetings were held with farmers and butchers. Ultimately 9 slaughterhouses (including one new one) were licensed as opposed to 30 in existence prior to 1939. Each owner of a slaughterhouse interested in reopening was told exactly what present requirements were from a public health point of view and it was left to him to decide whether the cost of improvement was justified having regard to the Ministry of Food's ultimate (but not yet disclosed) policy of moderate concentration of slaughtering facilities. From the resumption of private slaughtering on July 5th 100 per cent inspection has been maintained. This would be much facilitated by amendment of the existing law with regard to times of slaughtering; further reference to this is made in the report.

The Chairman and members of the public health committee have given me much support and encouragement during the year and to them my thanks are expressed. Mr. Newman, chief sanitary inspector, and his colleagues have been untiring in their efforts and have given me every assistance.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen

Your obedient Servant,

P. A. TYSER, M.D., B.S., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.

July, 1955.

VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR

(The mid-year home population is used for the statistical calculations.)

Live Births							<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	291	275	566
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	11	17	28
Totals	..	..	..	..	..	..	302	292	594
<hr/>									
Birth rate per thousand estimated population	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	14.7
Birth rate corrected by comparability factor (1.08)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	15.9
Birth rate per thousand population (England and Wales)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	15.2

Stillbirths							<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	11	9	20
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	—	—	—
Totals	..	..	..	..	..	..	11	9	20
<hr/>									

Rate per thousand live and still births	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	32.8
Rate per thousand estimated population	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0.49
Rate per thousand population (England and Wales)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0.36

Deaths							<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	214	228	442
Death rate per thousand estimated population	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	11.0
Death rate corrected by comparability factor (0.88)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	9.7
Death rate per thousand population (England and Wales)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	11.3

Infant Mortality. Deaths of infants under one year of age.

							<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	5 (4)	3 (2)	8 (6)
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	—	1 (1)	1 (1)
Totals	..	..	..	..	..	..	5 (4)	4 (3)	9 (7)
<hr/>									

(Deaths of infants under four weeks of age are shown in brackets.)

Infant Mortality Rate. (Infant deaths under one year per thousand live births)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	15.2
Infant Mortality Rate. (England and Wales)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	25.5
Neonatal Mortality Rate. (Infants under four weeks per thousand live births)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	11.8
Legitimate Infant deaths per thousand legitimate live births	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	14.1
Illegitimate Infant deaths per thousand illegitimate live births	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	35.7
Maternal Deaths. (Deaths ascribed to pregnancy, childbirth and abortion)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
Deaths from cancer (all ages)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	77
Deaths from tuberculosis (all ages)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
Respiratory	..	..	..	3 Male	3 Female	..	..	..	6
Non-Respiratory	..	..	..	Nil Male	Nil Female	..	..	..	Nil
Deaths from whooping cough	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
Deaths from measles	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
Deaths from pneumonia	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	21
Deaths from influenza	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Deaths from diarrhoea (under 2 years)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil

CERTAIN COMPARATIVE RATES

	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954
*Birth Rate	15.2	15.8	15.3	15.2	15.8	14.7
*Death Rate	12.3	10.9	12.3	10.0	10.5	11.0
Infant Mortality Rate	25.1	19.9	20.1	20.1	11.2	15.2
	(14)	(12)	(12)	(12)	(7)	(9)

* The above rates are uncorrected so that they are comparable from year to year. The figures in brackets are the numbers of infant deaths in each year.

TABLE CLASSIFYING DEATHS UNDER AGE GROUPS

<i>Ages</i>							<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Under 1 year	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	4	9
1 and under 2	..	..	..	..	..	..	—	—	—
2 and under 5	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	2
5 and under 15	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	2
15 and under 25	..	..	..	..	..	..	7	1	8
25 and under 35	..	..	..	..	..	..	6	7	13
35 and under 45	..	..	..	..	..	..	9	7	16
45 and under 55	..	..	..	..	..	..	12	12	24
55 and under 65	..	..	..	..	..	..	32	36	68
65 and under 75	..	..	..	..	..	..	56	60	116
75 and over	..	..	..	..	..	..	85	99	184
Totals	..	..	..	..	..	..	214	228	442

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

Medical Officer of Health

“The Cambridgeshire United Districts (Medical Officer of Health) Order, 1951” provides for the appointment of a medical officer of health to the Chesterton, Newmarket and South Cambridgeshire Rural District Councils.

Under the present arrangements this officer is also appointed deputy county and school medical officer to the Cambridgeshire County Council.

Sanitary Inspectors

Mr. E. B. Newman remains as Chief Sanitary Inspector with Mr. Addison as additional inspector. Mr. Beeby who was also an additional inspector resigned in August and was replaced by Mr. W. Cutts.

Laboratory Facilities

Chemical and bacteriological examinations of water are made by the Public Analyst at Cambridge. The Public Health Laboratory, Cambridge, undertakes bacteriological and biological examinations of milk and bacteriological examinations of water samples, and all necessary examinations in cases of infectious diseases.

Hospitals

Cases of infectious disease are treated at the Isolation Hospital, Cambridge. So far as general hospitals are concerned, Addenbrookes Hospital, Cambridge, deals with the majority of cases from this area. The only hospitals in the area are the Mental Hospital at Fulbourn and that for the treatment of tuberculosis in connection with the Papworth Village Settlement.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES 1954

Once again no case of *diphtheria* was notified. One case of non-paralytic *poliomyelitis* occurred during the year. There was a small increase in the number of cases of *whooping cough* notified. Scarlet fever, dysentery and food poisoning were again present in the community.

Dysentery

In June an outbreak of *Sonne dysentery* occurred in a boys' residential special school at Girton. Five cases were notified and seven symptomless excretors were found amongst the boys; amongst the staff the night porter was found to be a symptomless excretor. In co-operation with the medical officer of the school and the medical officers of isolation hospitals all cases and symptomless excretors were admitted as soon as they occurred or were discovered in faecal sampling. The school had 64 children resident and 23 staff resident and non-resident. It is thought that a boy who had a day out with his parents may have acquired the infection and so started the outbreak but it was not possible to prove this conclusively. By the end of the summer term all the affected boys except one were clear of the infection. The one boy continued most persistently to excrete the infective organism and it was some weeks before he became clear. I wish to take this opportunity of thanking the headmaster and his staff and the medical officer of the school for their valuable assistance. It is thought that the prompt removal of cases and symptomless excretors was a major factor in limiting the spread.

One other sporadic case occurred in the district and also two children were affected in one of the County Council's children's homes. No spread of the infection occurred but two symptomless excretors amongst the children were discovered. It is interesting to note that these two children had been involved in an outbreak of *Sonne dysentery* a year ago and at that time were infected and took some time to clear up.

Scarlet Fever

In all 93 cases were notified as compared with 75 last year. This total is the highest during the last ten years. Cases occurred in 24 parishes indicating the widespread presence of streptococcal infection in the community. In the country as a whole it would seem that the period 1953/54 was one when streptococcal infections were widespread. In the parishes of Swavesey and Willingham 28 and 16 cases were notified respectively; these represent the two highest parish figures, the next being Fulbourn and Elsworth with 7 notifications each. In Swavesey the illness was present mainly in the first trimester of the year and did not seem to be greatly affected by customary measures of control exercised amongst the school population. Since the disease is not nearly so severe as it was about a century ago and in view of the fact that the advent of chemotherapy and anti-biotic treatment has provided us with powerful weapons against the streptococcus it is not considered that the disruptive and stringent methods of control of yesteryear are now necessary as a matter of course. Again it must be pointed out that scarlet fever is but one manifestation of streptococcal infection and to institute stringent control measures against one form of its appearance whilst doing nothing against another is illogical. In Willingham the cases were scattered over the last six months of the year.

Food Poisoning

No outbreak occurred this year but eleven sporadic cases of *Salmonella typhi-murium* were notified. Two other cases were notified in which the infective agent was not discovered.

Infective Hepatitis (Infectious Jaundice)

This disease is notifiable in East Anglia; sporadic cases and small outbreaks occur from time to time in the country though during the 1939/45 war outbreaks of some magnitude occurred. Fifteen cases were notified this year, seven of which were related and centred upon a County Council children's home affecting both staff, children and persons in the surrounding parish. The remaining eight cases were apparently not connected with this outbreak or each other.

In addition to the formal notifications received from medical practitioners under Section 144 of the Public Health Act 1936 there has been a system in force for some years whereby I receive informal notifications from head teachers of cases of infectious disease occurring amongst school children. I therefore obtain some information with regard to the prevalence of non-notifiable diseases such as mumps, german measles and chickenpox for example.

THE PUBLIC HEALTH (Infectious Disease) REGULATIONS 1953

Under these Regulations a special provision is made to facilitate the investigation and control of outbreaks of 'Food Poisoning' (which includes typhoid fever, paratyphoid fever, or other salmonella infection, dysentery and staphylococcal infection likely to cause food poisoning) in that (a) the existing provisions regarding the prevention of a person suffering from a food poisoning infection from continuing in or entering into an occupation connected with the preparation and handling of food or drink are now extended to include 'carriers' of food poisoning infections, (b) local authorities may authorise their medical officer of health to issue on their behalf notices where required to effect (a) immediately if he thinks it necessary and then report such action to his authority as soon as possible.

Such authority has been given to the medical officer of health but has not so far had occasion to be used.

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE IN AGE GROUPS 1954

Age in Years	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Acute Poliomyelitis		Measles	Diphtheria	Totals
			Paralytic	Non-Paralytic			
Under 1	—	19	—	—	—	—	19
1—2	5	43	—	—	5	—	53
3—4	13	36	—	—	5	—	54
5—9	55	65	—	1	3	—	124
10—14	14	9	—	—	1	—	24
15—24	2	1	—	—	1	—	4
25 and over	4	2	—	—	—	—	6
Totals	93	175	—	1	15	—	284
1953 Totals	75	115	7	4	478	—	679

Age in Years	Acute Pneumonia	Dysentery	Erysipelas	Food Poisoning	Puerperal Pyrexia	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Totals
Under 5	1	2	—	3	—	2	8
5—14	6	4	1	4	—	—	15
15—44	3	2	1	6	3	—	15
45—64	5	—	2	—	—	—	7
65 and over	5	—	3	—	—	—	8
Totals	20	8	7	13	3	2	53
1953 Totals	23	35	3	7	5	—	73

MEASLES AND WHOOPING COUGH Annual case incidence and deaths 1944—1954

DISEASE	YEARS											1954
	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	TOTAL	
<i>Measles</i>												
Cases	114	246	177	338	225	493	76	723	59	478	2,929	15
Deaths	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
<i>Whooping cough</i>												
Cases	55	54	19	90	80	84	81	171	131	115	880	175
Deaths	—	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—

TUBERCULOSIS

33 cases (17 male and 16 female) were notified for the first time during the year. 44 cases previously notified in other areas transferred to this district. 1 respiratory case was discovered from scrutiny of the death returns; investigation revealed that it had not previously been notified. On balance, at the end of the year, the number of persons on the respiratory and non-respiratory registers had increased by 37 and 4 respectively.

TUBERCULOSIS REGISTER 1954

	<i>Respiratory</i>		<i>Non Respiratory</i>		<i>Total</i>	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
1. Number of cases on register at commencement of year	191	139	28	41	219	180
2. Number of cases notified for first time during the year under regulations	11	11	6	5	17	16
3. Cases restored to register	—	—	—	—	—	—
4. Cases added to register otherwise than by notification under regulations						
(a) Transferred from other Districts	26	14	1	3	27	17
(b) From Death Returns	1	—	—	—	1	—
5. Number of cases removed from register	14	12	4	7	18	19
6. Number of cases remaining on register at end of year	215	152	31	42	246	194

AGE AND SEX DISTRIBUTION RESPIRATORY AND NON-RESPIRATORY TUBERCULOSIS CASES ON REGISTER 31.12.54

AGE GROUP	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL		GRAND TOTAL
	<i>Resp.</i>	<i>Non Resp.</i>	<i>Resp.</i>	<i>Non Resp.</i>	<i>Resp.</i>	<i>Non Resp.</i>	
0—15	13	10	8	7	21	17	38
15—25	15	3	26	12	41	15	56
25—35	49	1	50	11	99	12	111
35—45	55	3	34	5	89	8	97
45—55	39	10	20	4	59	14	73
55—65	29	2	4	3	33	5	38
65 and over	15	2	10	—	25	2	27
TOTALS	215	31	152	42	367	73	440

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948, Section 47

No action was necessary during the year under this section.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948, Section 50

During the year it was necessary to effect the burial of one person where no other arrangements were being made.

CARE OF THE AGED

In my 1952 Report it was recorded that the Council had approached the County Council with a suggestion to call a meeting of all concerned with the welfare of the aged.

On March 23rd the County Council convened a meeting of all those interested in the care of the aged, excepting the chronic sick. Representatives of voluntary agencies, local authorities, and central government departments attended. The complexity of the organisations available, both statutory and voluntary, all having some connection with the care of old people led to a discussion upon the question of recognising one organisation as being the 'clearing house' or 'information bureau' upon all matters relating to the welfare of old people.

The conference adopted the following resolution which has received the approval of the County Council:—

"That this conference asks the County Council to establish a Central Clearing House for the two-way flow of information concerning the welfare of old people as indicated in the document prepared by the medical officer of health to the rural district councils and envisaged in Ministry of Health circular 11/50".

It is hoped that the effect of this policy will be to make more efficient use for the aged of the many services available for their assistance.

Following upon this large conference a smaller conference consisting of representatives of the four housing authorities in the County together with representatives of the County Council, met to discuss ways of providing suitable housing accommodation for old people in which the County Council could be of financial assistance under the provisions of Section 126 of the Local Government Act 1948.

In view of the increasing number of the population having accession to the older age groups it is a matter of major importance how best these older age groups, with their particular problems, are cared for, having due regard, firstly to their needs and wishes, and secondly to the economic aspect. There is ample evidence that wherever possible it is the wish of old people to live an independant life in their own homes; economically this is also the most attractive course. The care of old people in Homes is extremely costly. Every endeavour, therefore needs to be made by local authorities generally to make suitable forms of housing provision supported by adequate domicilliary services so that old people may be cared for satisfactorily in their own homes.

It is hoped furthermore, that it will not be long before the hospital authorities in the area provide a full geriatric service, including domicilliary consultation, domicilliary services and/or 'day ward' facilities where necessary. With such a service coupled with local authority domicilliary services and the activities of voluntary organisations, together with the provision of suitable forms of housing accommodation, it should be possible to provide adequately and economically for the problems inherent in an ageing population.

REPORT OF THE CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

The following is a summary of inspections carried out during 1954:—

TOTAL INSPECTIONS RECORDED	5,842
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General Sanitation

Miscellaneous visits re complaints, etc.	364
Visits re drainage or sewerage	956
Water supplies .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	606
Water samples taken .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	323
Factories Acts .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	226
Visits re verminous persons or property ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	15
Public cleansing visits .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	258
Shops Acts, etc. .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	99
Schools .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	209
Rag Flock Acts .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
Pet shops .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	4

Inspection of Food and Food Premises

Visits re sampling (milk and other foods)	..	..	..	..	..	..	307
Visits to slaughterhouses .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	893
Butchers shops .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	124
Preserved Food Premises:—							
(1) Sausage Manufacturers .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	71
(2) Fried Fish Shops .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	26
Ice Cream Premises (Retailers) .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	106
Cafes and Restaurants .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	149
Other Food Premises .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	145
Bakehouses .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	42
Retail Dairies .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	50
Licensed Premises (Public Houses, etc.)	..	..	..	..	..	..	145

Housing

Housing inspections (P.H.A. 1936) .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Reinspections .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	39
Housing inspections (Housing Acts) .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	300
Reinspections .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	206
Moveable Dwellings .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	297

Infectious Diseases

Visits and enquiries .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	238
Disinfections .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	19

HOUSING

1. Total number of houses erected by the Council between 1920 and 1939 1,320
2. Post War Housing progress:—

		<i>Permanent</i>	<i>Non-Traditional</i>	<i>Prefabs</i>	<i>Total</i>
Dwellings completed in	1946	18	—	5	23
"	"	52	16	45	113
"	"	77	10	—	87
"	"	21	70	—	91
"	"	115	—	—	115
"	"	133	—	—	133
"	"	106	—	—	106
"	"	184	—	—	184
"	"	229	70	—	299
	Totals	935	166	50	1,151

These figures are exclusive of conversions into flats and conversion of hutted dwellings.
Total number of dwellings completed up to 31st March, 1955.

Prefabricated Bungalows	..	50
Bungalows	.. ..	128
Flats	.. ..	29
Swedish, Unity and Airey Houses		146
Hut Conversions	.. ..	225
Permanent Houses	.. ..	803

Total 1,381

In course of erection or contracts drawn up:—

Permanent Houses	.. ..	94
Non-Traditional Houses	.. ..	28
Bungalows	.. ..	28
Flats	.. ..	4

Total 154

3. Number of houses built by private enterprise during 1954:—

Permanent Houses	.. ..	124
Temporary	.. ..	Nil
Prefabs	.. ..	Nil
Conversions (units)	.. ..	2

Total 126

4. Summary of action taken under the Housing Acts during the year:—

Houses inspected	.. ..	301
Reinspections made	.. ..	245
Demolition orders made	.. ..	5
Houses demolished	.. ..	10
Undertakings (Section 11 (3)) accepted	.. ..	6
Undertakings (Section 11 (3)) cancelled	.. ..	3
Houses made fit	.. ..	71

Since the passing of the Housing Act, 1930, the following action has been taken:—

Demolition orders not yet complied with	..	..	..	..	..	..	53
Houses demolished	..	..	..	..	..	..	439
Houses demolished (voluntarily)	..	..	..	..	..	..	22
Houses subject to undertakings (Section 11 (3))	..	..	..	..	..	..	83
Houses (or parts) closed	..	..	..	..	..	..	7
Houses made fit by formal action	..	..	..	..	..	..	30
Houses made fit by informal action	..	..	..	..	..	..	888

NOTE:—These figures are totals up to 31st December, 1954.

Improvement Grants (Housing Act, 1949)

Since the introduction of the Act the following action has been taken (up to 31st March, 1955):—

Total applications for grants received	..	..	..	..	..	66
Total applications approved	..	..	..	..	..	62*
Total applications disapproved	..	..	..	..	..	4
Number of dwellings involved	..	..	..	..	..	83
Total cost of approved work (not withdrawn)	..	..	..	..	£38,707 0 3	
Average total cost per dwelling	..	..	..	..	..	£466
Total amount of grant involved	..	..	..	..	..	£19,113 7 8
Average amount of grant per dwelling	..	..	..	..	..	£230
Total payments made up to 31.3.55	..	..	..	..	..	£8,730 2 1

* Two subsequently withdrawn.

The approved schemes provided for the following:—

1. Remedying fundamental defects in the structure of the dwelling	..	..	..	..	..	18
2. Fitting larger windows to improve light and ventilation	..	..	..	..	..	15
3. Laying on internal water supply	..	..	..	..	..	25
4. Installing hot water system	..	..	..	..	..	79
5. Provision of water closet	..	..	..	..	..	60
6. Provision of bath	..	..	..	..	..	74
7. Provision of sink	..	..	..	..	..	27
8. Provision of new or improved drainage	..	..	..	..	..	59
9. Provision of gas or electric points	..	..	..	..	..	68
10. Installation of new heating appliances	..	..	..	..	..	33
11. Provision of new or improved food stores	..	..	..	..	..	35
12. Provision of solid fuel cooking appliances	..	..	..	..	..	35
13. Provision of fuel stores	..	..	..	..	..	28
14. Additional accommodation:						
(a) living room(s)	..	..	..	..	..	15
(b) bedroom(s)	..	..	..	..	..	13

It is interesting to note that the dwellings included in approved schemes were owned as follows:—

(a) Owner-occupiers	.. .. .	39
(b) Small property owners	.. .. .	13
(c) Large individual property owners (exceeding 10)	.. .. .	2
(d) Estates, property Companies, etc.	.. .. .	29

Initially, the number of applications for grants received was small but with the introduction of the Housing Repairs and Rent Act, 1954, and the simplified procedure, the number of applications increased and is still increasing. The Council has laid down a procedure whereby all enquiries and preliminary applications are referred to the public health department. The initial inspection and report is made by the Chief Sanitary Inspector and the application is then dealt with by the Building Surveyor for costing etc. The availability of the grant is becoming well known and during the six months ending 31st March, 1955, 116 detailed reports were prepared.

Requisitioning

At the 31st March, 1955, only 7 properties remained on requisitioning orders compared with 56 in 1946. Plans are in hand to release these as quickly as possible.

Temporary Hutments

The position at 31st March, 1955, was as follows:—

Type and Parish	Total Originally Converted	Number Abandoned or Demolished	Still Occupied
Converted Huts (5 years)			
Fen Ditton	10	4	6
Fulbourn	2	2	Nil
Stapleford	11	11	Nil
Graveley	14	3	11
Longstanton	26	16	10
Cottenham	12	12	Nil
Bourn	110	67	43
Converted Huts (10 years)			
Waterbeach	11	11	Nil
Stow-cum-Quy	52	Nil	52
Unconverted Huts			
Waterbeach	1	1	Nil
Graveley	11	11	Nil
Conington	2	2	Nil
Bourn	22	22	Nil
Totals	284	162	122

One is pleased to record that the Council's policy of closing huts as they become vacant has been successfully pursued during the year. It will be noted that at Bourn only 43 huts remain occupied out of an original total of 132, and the use of hutments has been completely abandoned on several sites, notably Cottenham, Stapleford and Waterbeach. Plans are well advanced to eliminate the remaining sites with the exception of 22 huts to be retained at Bourn as a temporary expedient and the 52 at Stow-cum-Quy which will be retained until 1957.

Moveable Dwellings and Camping Sites

The following figures indicate the position at 31st December, 1954:—

Number of licences issued during the year for individual caravans	48
Number refused	2
Number of new site licences issued	2
Vehicles involved	10
Number of site licences refused	1
Total number of individual licences in force at 31st December, 1954	128
Total number of site licences in force at 31st December, 1954	18
Total vehicles involved	157
Total number of visits paid	297
Site improvements carried out	3
New or improved sanitary accommodation	1
Mains water laid on	3

The demand for caravan sites in the area has diminished as a result of the improvement in the housing position. The only current requirements are for sites for imported labour obtaining employment at the several large industrial concerns on the outskirts of Cambridge. The division of responsibility between the Planning authority and the local sanitary authority remains something of an embarrassment and tends to confuse the applicants, particularly in the case of individual caravan licences. The two large residential sites at Great Shelford make provision for 58 caravans and together with a number of smaller sites to the North of Cambridge appear to meet the general requirements.

The seasonal influx of caravan dwellers in the fruit picking areas presented no difficulty during the year and is now on a much reduced scale.

Generally

The Council has erected almost 2,500 houses and has utilised some 225 hutments for temporary accommodation but the list of applicants awaiting accommodation, although somewhat reduced at the end of the year, is still large. The list was revised and brought up to date recently and at 31st March, 1955, was as follows:—

Families in lodgings (no separate houses)	402
Families in separate houses but under Notice, Court Orders, or being in unfit accommodation	580
Total	982*

*This total includes 112 agricultural workers.

It is hoped that the housing survey called for in the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, will be carried out in the Autumn. Up to the time of writing it has been physically impossible to carry it out though its importance is great and urgent, and the information gathered will be of particular value since no Rural Housing Survey was carried out in the immediate post war years.

POST WAR HOUSING TABLE 1

PARISH ALLOCATION

(Houses under contract or work commenced 31.3.55)

Parish	Permanent Construction				Temp. Accom.	
	Allocated		Completed		Allocated	Completed
	Houses	Bungalows and Flats	Houses	Bungalows and Flats	Huts and Prefabs etc.	Huts and Prefabs etc.
Barton	6	—	6	—	—	—
Bourn	40	12	20	8	110	110
Boxworth	4	—	4	—	—	—
Caxton	19	10	19	10	—	—
Comberton	4	—	4	—	—	—
Conington	8	—	8	—	—	—
Coton	50	3	50	3	—	—
Cottenham	76	8	76	8	22	22
Croxton	8	—	8	—	—	—
Dry Drayton	8	—	8	—	—	—
Elsworth	12	—	12	—	—	—
Eltisley	9	—	9	—	—	—
Fen Ditton	8	—	8	—	—	—
Fen Drayton	16	—	16	—	—	—
Fulbourn	16	—	16	—	10	10
Girton	59	10	59	10	—	—
Grantchester	8	—	6	—	—	—
Graveley	8	—	8	—	14	14
Harlton	7	—	7	—	—	—
Harston	58	10	58	10	—	—
Haslingfield	14	12	8	4	—	—
Histon	102	4	66	4	—	—
Horningsea	16	4	16	4	—	—
Impington	36	2	36	2	10	10
Knapwell	6	—	6	—	—	—
Landbeach	14	2	14	2	—	—
Lolworth	8	—	8	—	—	—
Longstanton	26	9	26	9	26	26
Madingley	8	—	8	—	—	—
Milton	28	—	28	—	—	—
Newton	4	—	4	—	—	—
Oakington	24	13	24	13	10	10
Over	16	5	14	5	—	—
Rampton	11	—	11	—	—	—
Great Shelford	144	42	106	32	10	10
Little Shelford	18	—	18	—	—	—
Stapleford	10	—	10	—	—	—
Stow-cum-Quay	—	—	—	—	52	52
Swavesey	26	6	26	6	—	—
Teversham	12	—	12	—	—	—
Toft	12	—	12	—	—	—
Waterbeach	45	16	45	12	11	11
Great Wilbraham	8	—	8	—	—	—
Little Wilbraham	18	6	—	—	—	—
Willingham	41	15	41	15	—	—
Totals	1,071	189	949	157	275	275

WATER SUPPLY

Since the last Report, the scheme for supplying certain fen areas (North Fen and Smithy Fen, Cottenham) has been completed. Tenders have been invited for a mains extension at Six Mile Bottom to supply several outlying farms and the Council has now completed the purchase of the Willingham Water Company (with effect from 1st April, 1955). A scheme is in course of preparation for extending a mains supply to the hamlet of Chittering where the public pump has been condemned. In the meantime, a static tank has been installed and is filled by the Council's vehicle.

With a mains supply available in all parishes satisfactory progress has been made in securing the connection of dwellings and the percentage now taking a supply shows an increase from 87.4% in 1953 to 87.8% this year. Most public standpipes have now been eliminated with the exception of a few retained for the use of isolated premises.

A direct labour scheme is available for connections, maintenance and waste detection.

Sufficiency of Supply

No difficulties were met with during the year in meeting the demands on the various sources of supply. The supplies of the Chesterton and Saint Ives Joint Water Board have been supplemented by the bringing into use of an additional bore at Lords Bridge R.A.F. Station, Harlton. The proposals of the Ramsey and St. Ives Joint Water Board to take a bulk supply from Cambridge have not been implemented to date.

Chlorination and Softening

All public supplies are chlorinated with the exception of the Council's works at Harston supplying less than 1,500 population. Consideration has been given to the complaints received regarding the hardness of the water supplied by the Chesterton and Saint Ives Joint Water Board (between 450 and 490 parts per million) and the Council has resolved to support any action by the Board to install softening plant.

Willingham Water Company

Negotiations for the purchase of this Company were completed in March, 1955, and the undertaking will be operated by the Council with effect from 1st April, 1955. Since the improvements carried out in 1952 the supply has yielded satisfactory results both bacteriologically and chemically. Two further improvements are in hand i.e. the installation of automatic chlorinating plant and the protection of the well by the acquisition of further land around it.

Sampling

All public supplies are sampled at least monthly for bacteriological examination by the Public Health Laboratories and full chemical and bacteriological reports are made quarterly by the Public Analyst. By routine sampling throughout the area considerable coverage is afforded (see Table 3). The 8 unsatisfactory samples from mains supplies were not of a serious character and were due largely to minor contamination of mains and service pipes. In the case of the unsatisfactory samples from private wells action was taken to secure connection to the mains or an improvement in the existing supply.

PIPED WATER SUPPLIES AT 31.3.55. TABLE 2.

PARISH	Population 1951 Census	Statutory Authority	No. of Dwellings (Rate Books) 31.3.55	No. of Dwellings taking Supply (Rated)	% of Dwellings at 31.3.55
Barton	528	C.R.D.C.	197	134	67.9
Bourn	1,053	C.R.D.C.	299	273	91.4
Boxworth	196	C.R.D.C.	71	67	94.3
Caldecote	396	C.R.D.C.	135	126	93.3
Caxton	375	C.R.D.C.	124	117	94.3
Childerley	22	C.R.D.C.	7	6	85.7
Comberton	597	C.R.D.C.	193	150	77.7
Conington	132	C.R.D.C.	41	39	95.1
Coton	519	C.W.W.	177	158	89.8
Cottenham	2,440	C.R.D.C.	908	869	97.9
Croxton	170	C.R.D.C.	65	58	89.2
Dry Drayton	405	C.R.D.C.	127	103	81.1
Elsworth	515	C.R.D.C.	156	145	92.2
Eltisley	276	C.R.D.C.	96	94	98.0
Fen Ditton	632	C.W.W.	196	139	70.2
Fen Drayton	483	C.R.D.C.	144	74	51.3
Fulbourn	2,413	C.W.W.	475	404	85.0
Girton	1,931	C.W.W.	719	679	94.4
Grantchester	493	C.W.W.	166	157	94.5
Graveley	218	C.R.D.C.	62	55	88.7
Hardwick	471	C.R.D.C.	157	117	74.5
Harlton	236	C.R.D.C.	83	62	74.7
Harston	938	C.R.D.C.	363	346	95.3
Haslingfield	1,142	C.R.D.C.	218	169	77.5
Hauxton	381	C.R.D.C.	129	114	88.3
Histon	2,555	C.W.W.	858	1,203	92.8
Horningsea	325	C.R.D.C.	123	101	82.1
Impington	1,301	C.W.W.	440	(with Histon)	92.8
Knapwell	109	C.R.D.C.	37	33	89.2
Landbeach	610	C.R.D.C.	212	162	76.8
Lolworth	86	C.R.D.C.	41	28	68.3
Longstanton	1,481	C.R.D.C.	193	169	86.5
Madingley	182	C.W.W.	69	62	89.8
Milton	738	C.W.W.	250	190	76.0
Newton	279	C.R.D.C.	88	69	78.4
Oakington	500	C.R.D.C.	189	184	97.3
Over	906	C.R.D.C.	337	296	87.8
Papworth Everard	1,205	C.R.D.C.	259	259	100.0
Papworth St. Agnes	88	C.R.D.C.	29	26	89.6
Rampton	221	C.R.D.C.	88	84	95.4
Great Shelford	2,318	C.W.W.	888	813	91.5
Little Shelford	658	C.W.W.	200	167	83.5
Stapleford	831	C.W.W.	298	245	82.2
Stow-cum-Quy	527	C.R.D.C.	161	138	85.7
Swavesey	927	C.R.D.C.	306	284	92.4
Teversham	571	C.W.W.	157	113	71.9
Toft	250	C.R.D.C.	89	73	82.0
Waterbeach	2,630	C.R.D.C.	516	402	77.8
Westwick	61	C.R.D.C.	14	14	100.0
Great Wilbraham	435	C.W.W.	147	117	79.6
Little Wilbraham	266	C.R.D.C.	101	83	82.1
Willingham	1,623	W.W.W.	634	605	95.4
Totals	38,645		12,032	10,575	87.8%

C.R.D.C. Chesterton Rural District Council.

C.W.W. Cambridge University and Town Waterworks Company.

W.W.W. Willingham Water Company

WATER SAMPLING YEAR ENDING 31.12.54. TABLE 3.

Parish	Public Supplies		Private Supplies	
	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Barton	3	—	—	—
Bourn	4	—	—	—
Boxworth	3	—	—	—
Caldecote	3	—	—	—
Caxton	3	—	—	—
Childerley	3	—	—	—
Comberton	4	—	—	—
Conington	3	—	—	—
Coton	3	—	—	—
Cottenham	22	—	—	—
Croxton	4	—	—	—
Dry Drayton	4	1	—	—
Elsworth	4	—	—	—
Eltisley	3	—	—	—
Fen Ditton	3	—	—	—
Fen Drayton	—	—	24	—
Fulbourn	6	1	—	—
Girton	3	1	—	—
Grantchester	3	—	—	—
Graveley	12	—	—	—
Hardwick	5	2	—	—
Harlton	3	—	—	—
Harston	14	—	—	—
Haslingfield	5	—	—	—
Hauxton	4	—	—	—
Horningsea	3	—	—	—
Impington	2	—	—	—
Knapwell	3	—	—	—
Landbeach	2	—	—	1
Lolworth	3	—	—	1
Longstanton	1	—	—	—
Madingley	3	—	1	—
Milton	1	—	1	—
Newton	5	1	—	—
Oakington	1	—	—	—
Over	20	—	—	—
Papworth Everard	3	—	—	—
Papworth St. Agnes	3	—	—	—
Great Shelford	2	—	—	—
Little Shelford	1	—	2	1
Stapleford	5	1	1	—
Stow-cum-Quy	3	—	—	—
Swavesey	23	—	—	1
Teversham	3	—	—	—
Toft	8	—	—	—
Waterbeach	5	—	4	11
Great Wilbraham	3	—	—	—
Little Wilbraham	7	—	—	—
Willingham	33	1	1	—
Totals	267	8	34	14

SUMMARY OF WORK CARRIED OUT BY THE DEPARTMENT

Total number of visits made re water supplies	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	606
Total samples taken	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	323
Samples reported fit								
(a) Public supplies	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	267
(b) Private wells, etc.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	34
Samples reported unfit								
(a) Public supplies	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8
(b) Private wells, etc.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	14
Water supplies to houses improved as a result of action by the department (excluding mains extensions)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	24
Statutory Notices served	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1

PUBLIC CLEANSING

Refuse Collection

The department remains responsible for public cleansing and a scheme is in operation whereby refuse collection is carried out weekly in respect of 3,895 houses in 8 semi-urban parishes (32%) and fortnightly in the case of 2,170 houses in 6 parishes (18%). The remaining 38 parishes with 5,967 houses (50%) receive a monthly collection. No alterations in the frequency of collections was made during 1954 and the present arrangements are as follows:—

Weekly	Houses	Fortnightly	Houses
Girton	719	Cottenham	908
Harston	363	Fen Ditton	196
Hauxton	129	Landbeach	212
Histon	858	Milton	250
Impington	440	Newton	88
Great Shelford	888	Waterbeach	516
Little Shelford	200		
Stapleford	298		
8 parishes	3,895 (32%)	6 parishes	2,170 (18%)

Monthly	Houses	Monthly	Houses	Monthly	Houses
Barton	197	Fen Drayton	144	Over	337
Bourn	299	Fulbourn	475	Papworth Everard	259
Boxworth	71	Grantchester	166	Papworth St. Agnes	29
Caldecote	135	Graveley	62	Rampton	88
Caxton	124	Hardwick	157	Stow-cum-Quy	161
Childerley	7	Harlton	83	Swavesey	306
Comberton	193	Haslingfield	218	Teversham	157
Conington	41	Horningsea	123	Toft	89
Coton	177	Knapwell	37	Westwick	14
Croxton	65	Lolworth	41	Great Wilbraham	147
Dry Drayton	127	Longstanton	193	Little Wilbraham	101
Elsworth	156	Madingley	69	Willingham	634
Eltisley	96	Oakington	189		
38 parishes 5,967 houses (50%)					

All parishes in the area are served by a collection not less frequently than once per month and at least 50% of the houses either weekly or fortnightly. The current rate equivalent is 1/3d. This figure is only possible by virtue of a system of curbside collections facilitated by the co-operation of householders. Whilst undesirable, the cost of any other scheme would be quite prohibitive.

As a result of delivery of a second Shelvoke and Drewry fore and aft tipping vehicle during the year, it was found possible to eliminate the 2 Karrier Bantam 7 cu. yd. vehicles which were 8/9 years old. The present fleet consists of 2 16/18 cu. yd. S & D vehicles with diesel engines, one Karrier 12 cu. yd. side loading vehicle and one Karrier 12/15 cu. yd. moving floor. It is hoped eventually to standardise on diesel engined vehicles of the larger type having regard to the long haulage involved.

The main difficulty during the year has been to attract sufficient labour in an area where more lucrative employment is readily available. Sickness rate has also been heavy. The absence of any superannuation scheme and the Depot being sited some 7 miles outside Cambridge detracts from the recruitment of adequate labour of the right type. Nevertheless, the coming into use of the new Depot at Oakington has enabled up to date facilities to be provided both for vehicles and staff.

Stocks of B.S.S. dustbins are still held for resale to the public at cost price.

Disposal

Controlled tipping is carried out at five tips as detailed in the last Report.

Collection of Salvage

The separate collection of waste paper has not been re-commenced but if the present improvement in prices continues it may become an economical proposition once again. The predominance of paper in the refuse is very noticeable and creates some difficulty.

Total mileage travelled	.. .. .	45,895 miles
Cost of vehicles per mile (excluding loan charges)	.. .. .	12.7 pence
Estimated refuse removed and disposed of	.. .. .	6,180 tons
Estimated cost per ton (collection and disposal)	.. .. .	£1 12 0 $\frac{1}{4}$
Estimated cost per ton (after deduction of income)	.. .. .	£1 11 1 $\frac{1}{4}$
Estimated number of clearances	.. .. .	324,800 clearances
Average net cost per clearance	.. .. .	7.1 pence
Estimated average mileage per ton	.. .. .	7.4 miles
Estimated miles per gallon (petrol)	.. .. .	7.3 m.p.g.
Estimated miles per gallon (diesel)	.. .. .	11.3 m.p.g.
Estimated annual cost per 1,000 dwellings (gross)	.. .. .	£822 16 9
Estimated annual cost per 1,000 dwellings (net)	.. .. .	£798 16 5
Estimated annual cost per 1,000 population (gross)	.. .. .	£245 14 6
Estimated annual cost per 1,000 population (net)	.. .. .	£238 6 1 $\frac{1}{2}$

It will be observed that the total mileage travelled closely approximates that for 1953 (45,440 miles) but that the amount of refuse collected and disposed of shows a considerable increase (5,424 tons last year).

The net cost of the service (excluding the purchase of the new vehicle out of revenue) amounted to £9,611 8s. 6d. as against £8,188 16s. 2d. last year. The increase was mainly due to wages (approximately £900) and the loss of one Royal Air Force contract (approximately £300). The additional cost of labour was mainly due to substantial increases in the National Joint Council wage rates during the year and to some extent due to additional labour employed.

The gross cost per ton for collection and disposal shows a slight decrease and, due to loss of income, the net figure is slightly higher (£1 10s. 2 $\frac{1}{4}$ d. last year). The cost per clearance also shows an increase (6d. in 1953).

Cesspool Emptying

Two Karrier/Yorkshire 700 gallon cesspool emptiers are operated for the casual clearance of cesspools for which a charge is made. The vehicles also carry out the desludging of small sewage disposal plants owned by the Council and the cleansing of village drains and catchpits. Both are adapted for use on night soil collection. One private firm of contractors also undertakes this work but their charges are considerably higher.

Disposal of cesspool contents is mainly effected at the larger sewage disposal plants owned by the Council and by the seasonal use of suitable agricultural land. The use of the new public sewers for this purpose is permitted on a limited scale. Transport costs are high since long haulage is often involved.

Actual mileage travelled	22,841 miles
Estimated cost per mile	1/8d.
Number of clearances made	1,277 clearances
Estimated cost per clearance	£2 15 11
Estimated number of loads disposed of	1,882 loads
Estimated cost per load	£1 17 11½

The total cost of the service shows some increase (approximately £400), mainly increased running costs due to heavier maintenance with the increasing age of the 2 vehicles. In turn, the income shows some increase (approximately £300) and the net cost to the rates for 1954 was £1,030 15s. 4d. as against £906 5s. 5d. for 1953. The cost per mile for the 2 vehicles is 1/8d. and the actual cost per clearance £2 15s. 11d. The cost per load for collection and disposal is £1 17s. 11½d. Having regard to the fact that the Council's scale of charges has not been revised since 1951 (£1 15s. 0d. minimum charge (1 load) and £2 10s. 0d. for 2 loads), the position is not unsatisfactory. In effect the service is subsidised to the extent of a 1½d. rate. Little improvement can be effected in the cost of the service which remains the cheapest in the area and no increase in the Council's charges is recommended. It is however, hoped to discontinue the service in those areas where the new sewers are available.

The amount of work required by other departments, particularly on housing estate sewage disposal plants, etc., is seriously reducing the available time for the emptying of private cesspools.

Night Soil Collection.

The department remains responsible for the collection of night soil as follows:—

Weekly	No. of Houses
Waterbeach (direct labour)	350
Grantchester (private contract)	50
2 parishes	400 houses

In addition, a scheme is in operation in conjunction with a private firm of contractors whereby a night soil collection service is available throughout the district at a nominal charge of 1/- per clearance. This is used to a considerable extent.

Total number of bucket clearances	18,229 clearances
Estimated cost per bucket clearance	3.2 pence

The procedure whereby this service is operated by direct labour (with additional payments to the men engaged) is working satisfactorily, and the cost shows no variation on last year's figures. The cost per clearance (3.2 pence) compares most favourably with charges made by private contractors.

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS

There are no public or privately owned baths or pools in the area although much bathing occurs in the River Cam above and below Cambridge. The responsibility for the prevention of pollution now devolves upon the Great Ouse River Board.

SHOPS ACTS

The following summary shows the action taken by the department during the year (excluding routine visits to food shops reported elsewhere):—

Total number of shops (all categories) on Register	..	..	..	..	..	..	311
Inspections made	..	..	..	..	..	..	99
Improvements secured:—							
Structural repairs or improvements	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
New or improved sanitary accommodation	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
New or improved drainage	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
New or improved washing facilities	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Mains water laid on	..	..	..	..	..	..	2

The work of the department is limited to action under Section 38 of the new Shops Act, 1950, dealing with ventilation and temperature in shops and the provision of sanitary conveniences for the employees, and since the majority of the shop premises in the area are small family concerns little difficulty is experienced. Few shops employ large staffs.

VERMINOUS PERSONS AND PREMISES

Very little action has been necessary during the year. The following is a summary:—

Visits and enquiries re verminous premises or persons	15
Premises treated for:—	
Bugs	1
Fleas	5
Lice	1

Facilities are made available by the United Cambridge Hospitals for the disinfection of bedding and articles not capable of treatment on the spot. The availability of effective fumigants of the D.D.T. or B.H.C. type to the general public has no doubt served to reduce the demands on the department. The employment of a full time Pests Officer within the department enables a comprehensive service to be offered where required.

DRAINAGE AND CLOSET ACCOMMODATION

A brief summary of the work carried out is as follows:—

Visits in connection with drainage (inspection and testing, etc.)	..	..	..	956
House drains new or repaired	..	..	..	80
Closet accommodation new or repaired	..	..	..	74

The department is responsible for the supervision of all new drainage, drainage alterations and repairs to existing properties and the large number of visits made in this connection will be noted. With the coming into use of the new sewers at Histon, Impington, Girton and Fulbourn, this work will increase considerably. The work is carried out in close collaboration with the Surveyor and copies of all plans submitted for sewer connections are also passed to the department.

At the time of writing, the new public sewers in the parishes of Histon and Impington have been brought into use and it is hoped that those in the parish of Girton will be available within a short time. Only remedial works remain. Application has again been made to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government for approval in respect of the sewers forming Contract 5 which comprise the remainder of Great Shelford, Little Shelford and Stapleford. It is hoped to commence the remainder of Great Shelford at least in 1956. The recent and projected development at Stapleford and Little Shelford renders the completion of this scheme a matter of some urgency.

The scheme for the sewerage of Fulbourn (now split into 4 Contracts) is proceeding well. Contract No. 1 has been completed and Contracts 2 and 3 are two thirds completed. Contract No. 4 is out to tender.

The scheme for Cottenham is in the process of being revised for re-submission to the Ministry.

The number of properties connected to the new sewers up to 31st March, 1955 is as follows:—

Parish	Council Houses	Private Houses
Girton	—	227
Histon	44	9
Impington	—	24
Great Shelford	215	239
Milton	41	56
Totals	300	555

The installation of adequate sewage disposal facilities on the Council's housing sites continues to make good progress. Of the 10 sites mentioned in the 1952 report only Comberton remains to be done. In this case a change of layout has necessitated the preparation of a revised scheme. During the year a new sewage disposal plant has been completed for the Eltisley site (17 houses) and 18 houses on the Broadway site at Bourn have been connected to an existing works. A scheme is before the Ministry for sewerage the St. Andrews Way Estate at Impington (34 houses) and for part of the Teversham site.

This progress is notable but several sites remain where proper sewage disposal arrangements are urgently necessary, particularly at Dry Drayton, Conington, and Newton, where the cesspools give rise to serious nuisance. The connection of Council houses into the new sewers at Great Shelford and Milton has been completed but it is to be regretted that the conversion of the pail closets to water closets was not undertaken at the same time.

RODENT DESTRUCTION

The department remains responsible for the administration of the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949, and a full time Pests Officer and one operator are employed. The service, which has come to be regarded as an established public health measure is used to the full by the public, more especially since a free service is given to domestic dwellings. Work on business or other premises is either carried out on a full recovery or contract basis. The destruction of other pests such as wasps, hornets, bats, moles, etc., is undertaken by request for which a nominal charge is made.

There is ample work in this field which shows little evidence of decreasing and, as will be seen from Table 4 some 1,439 properties were treated during the year. The position is somewhat complicated by the retention of the Agricultural Committee's services (without any statutory functions). Although good liaison exists with the officers of the Committee it is only to be expected that a certain amount of competition should develop for the more lucrative contracts. It is hoped that early consideration will be given to the possibility of creating one authority only for this work which would prove simpler and, no doubt, cheaper from an administrative point of view.

The work can be carried out economically by local authorities. The cost to this Council after deduction of the grant from the Ministry is less than the product of a penny rate. Since agricultural properties would be treated on a full recovery basis there is no reason why local authorities should not carry out the whole work without any substantial increase of rate burden.

In the main, the destruction of rats in the area is carried out by poisoning with Warfarin and occasionally with zinc phosphide or A.N.T.U. The availability of Warfarin to the public has enabled property owners to treat their own premises safely and effectively providing the manufacturer's instructions are followed.

The following Table No. 4 shows briefly a summary of the work carried out for the twelve months ending 31st March, 1955.

RODENT DESTRUCTION

12 Months ending 31.3.55

TABLE 4

	Type of Property				Total
	Local Authority	Dwellings	Agricultural	Business & Industrial Premises etc.	
Approximate total number of properties in area	20	12,032	1,000	500	13,552
Properties inspected as a result of notification of infestation	—	371	1	—	372
Properties inspected without notification of infestation	6	6,219	43	209	6,477
Number of properties found to be infested with rats	—	—	1	5	6
Major	6	1,389	4	24	1,423
Minor	—	—	—	—	—
Number of properties found to be infested with mice	—	—	—	—	—
Major	—	7	—	3	10
Minor	—	—	—	—	—
Number of infested properties treated by the Council	6	1,396	5	32	1,439
Number of notices served under Section 4 (treatment)	—	—	—	—	—
Number of 'block control' schemes carried out	—	6	—	—	—

It is interesting to note that the following results were achieved during this period:—

Total number of rats recovered	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5,839
Total estimated kill	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	23,356
Number of wasps nests removed	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	52
Number of premises treated for:—									
Mice	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	13
Beetles	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Flies	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8
Ants	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7
Moles	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
Other Vermin	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1

No serious reservoirs of infestation have been revealed during the year and the Council's five refuse tips are under constant surveillance and treatment. Whilst it is unlikely that the ubiquitous rat can be entirely eliminated its depredations can be strictly limited so long as the co-operation of the public can be relied upon.

FACTORIES

A summary of the work carried out under the Factories Act is appended below:—

Number of factories with mechanical power	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	113
Number of factories without mechanical power	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10
Inspections recorded	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	226
Notifications of outworkers received	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12
Infected premises	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
Notices served	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6

As a result of action during the year the following defects were revealed and remedied:—

Want of cleanliness	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Insufficient sanitary accommodation	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7
Unsuitable or defective sanitary accommodation	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4

Very few outworkers are now employed in the area and there is very little use of satellite premises for light assembly work. Apart from one or two notable exceptions most premises are small and employ few staff. No serious problem arose during the year.

The department is not responsible for the administration of Sections 34-37 of the Factories Act, 1937 (means of escape in case of fire).

SCHOOLS

The responsibility for the structural condition of school premises and the amenities provided rests primarily with the County Council and the work of the department has been confined to school milk sampling and the routine inspection of school canteens and kitchens (reported elsewhere). Considerable progress is being made with the modernisation of the smaller village schools and in a number of cases new premises or additions have been provided, notably at Barton, Bourn, Comberton, Elsworth, Longstanton and Great Shelford. This in turn has enabled several of the more primitive premises to be abandoned. A good deal remains to be done and it is hoped that early attention will be given to the schools at Milton and Oakington where conditions are particularly bad.

RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951

Only one factory in the area is engaged on the manufacture of new upholstered furniture using the specified materials. This has been duly registered.

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951

Premises registered at 31.12.54	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Number of visits recorded	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4

One licence is in respect of premises where animals and birds are kept prior to sale elsewhere. Visits are usually made in conjunction with an inspector of the R.S.P.C.A. and the erection of an improved aviary was effected during the year. The other licence is for the sale of goldfish only. There are no markets in the area.

INSPECTION OF FOOD AND FOOD PREMISES

Milk Supply

Since the supervision of milk production on the farm was transferred to the Ministry of Agriculture via the local Agricultural Committee the work of the department has been directed towards ensuring that the milk as delivered to the consumer is clean and free from harmful organisms. Sampling of school milk supplies is also undertaken on behalf of the County Medical Officer of Health. The sale of loose milk has been discontinued throughout the district and sales are confined to milk bottled on the farm or bottled milk purchased for resale from the larger firms outside the area.

The following figures (supplied by courtesy of the Cambridgeshire Agricultural Executive Committee) indicate the position in the area at 31st December, 1954:—

Number of wholesale producers in the area	..	..	..	..	..	..	130
Number of producer retailers	..	..	..	..	..	..	48
Number of retail purveyors	..	..	..	..	..	..	23

Of a total of 145 registered producers in the area 84 produce Tuberculin Tested milk (58%) and approximately 76 herds (52%) are attested. The use of the designation Accredited was discontinued on 30th September, 1954.

The following is a summary of the year's work in connection with the distribution of milk under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949:—

Number of distributors with registered premises in the area	..	..	..	..	18
Number of distributors with premises outside the area	..	..	..	..	5
Visits paid to retail dairies	..	..	..	..	50
Licences issued to retail Pasteurised milk	..	..	..	..	22
Licences issued to retail Tuberculin Tested milk	..	..	..	..	6
Licences issued to retail T.T. Pasteurised milk	..	..	..	..	17
Licences issued to retail Sterilised milk	..	..	..	..	3

The 18 registered dairies in the area are mostly small premises and the regulations are complied with. Few sell raw milk and bottled Pasteurised milk is almost universally available. In an area of this kind bordering on a City the issuing of the various and requisite licences to retail designated milks is a most complicated and cumbersome procedure involving considerable work to little effect. It is to be hoped that this procedure will be simplified in any future legislation. The manufacture and sale of such articles as flavoured milk and orange juice from registered premises is viewed with some concern particularly the former which seems contrary to the intention of Section 24 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

Milk Sampling

Milk as delivered to the consumer and schools is regularly sampled by the department. Where appropriate the samples are submitted for biological examination and subjected to the prescribed tests if designated. The Animal Health Division of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries has been of great assistance in this work for some years.

Of the 29 samples of milk in course of delivery 27 passed the prescribed tests and only 1 sample of Tuberculin Tested milk and 1 of Accredited failed bacteriologically. 39 samples were submitted for biological examination and all were found to be free from tuberculosis organisms. 2 samples were found to be infected with *Brucella abortus*. In one case the milk was already being Pasteurised and it was only necessary to ensure that none was supplied as accommodation milk to local dairies prior to heat treatment. The other infection occurred in a small herd supplying milk to resident farm workers only. The infected animal was traced and removed.

141 samples were taken from school supplies of which 2 samples of Tuberculin Tested milk, 6 samples of Pasteurised milk and 3 of Sterilised milk failed the prescribed tests. Appropriate action was taken. 13 samples were submitted for biological examination and 1 supply from a T.T. attested herd was found to be infected with organisms of tuberculosis.

An alternative supply for the school was arranged immediately and the case referred to the Ministry Veterinary Officers. As a result 3 cows and 4 calves were found to be reactors and were removed from the herd.

One sample revealed evidence of *Brucella abortus* but since the origin of the milk could not be determined (the supplier has 3 farms) it was not possible to trace the infected animals. Subsequent samples proved negative.

Since the number of registered distributors in the area is small it is possible to ensure good coverage of all retail supplies. Generally speaking, there has been little cause for complaint regarding the cleanliness or keeping quality of milk but with greater mechanisation of handling a disturbing new feature has been the amount of 'contraries' found in bottled milk—particularly fragments of glass. During the year it was necessary to institute legal proceedings against one large firm who supplied school milk containing glass particles small enough to be drawn through a straw. A penalty of £5 and £31 guineas costs were imposed.

MILK SAMPLING 1954

TABLE 5

The following is a summary of the milk sampling carried out during the year:—

Category	Bacteriological Examination			Biological Examination			
	Samples Taken 1	No. Passing Test 2	No. Failing 3	No. of Samples Submitted 4	Free from Infection 5	Positive T.B. 6	Brucella Abortus 7
ROUTINE SAMPLING							
Tuberculin Tested	8	7	1	17	15	—	2
Accredited	1	—	1	1	1	—	—
Ungraded	20	20	—	21	21	—	—
Totals	29	27	2	39	37	—	2
ADDITIONAL SAMPLING AFTER UNSATISFACTORY SAMPLES AT FARMS	6	6	—	—	—	—	—
SCHOOL MILKS							
Tuberculin Tested	20	18	2	13	10	1	1
Pasteurised	118*	95	6	—	—	—	—
Sterilised	3	—	3	—	—	—	—
Totals	141	113	11	13	10	1	1
TOTAL OF ALL SAMPLES	176	146	13	52	47	1	3

* 17 samples (Pasteurised) where atmospheric shade temperature too high.

BAKEHOUSES

Number of bakehouses on the Register	..	..	..	..	..	..	17
Inspections recorded	..	..	..	..	..	..	42
Premises redecorated, etc.	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
New drainage to sewer	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
New machinery, plant, etc.	..	..	..	..	..	..	1

During the year 2 further premises have been closed and of the remaining 17 premises 7 are of comparatively recent construction. The others are small family businesses mostly in reasonable condition. The small local trader is still facing keen competition from the large concerns outside the area with the result that there is little enthusiasm for carrying out improvements. The greater mechanisation of bread making also increases the risk of 'contraries' finding their way into the bread unless scrupulous care is taken with the machinery.

PRESERVED FOOD PREMISES (Section 14 Food and Drugs Act, 1938)

Total number on Register 21.12.54	..	..	..	137	Visits paid	..	203
Manufacture of Sausages	..	..	..	22			71
Fish Fryers	..	..	..	9			26
Sale only of Ice Cream	..	..	..	106			106

It has always been a condition of registration that premises should have adequate facilities for hand washing including a constant supply of hot water and all premises comply in this respect. As a result of action during the year the following additional improvements have been effected:—

Sausage Making Premises

Structural improvements	1
Redecoration	5
Equipment improved or replaced	1

Fish Frying Premises

Extension of premises	1
New sanitary accommodation	1
Improved storage facilities	1

Ice Cream Premises (Sale only)

Cleansing and redecoration	8
Mains water laid on	2
Improved hand washing facilities (sink heaters, etc.)	4
Structural repairs	2

Registrations are confined to sales only. There are no premises registered for the manufacture of ice cream in the area. Only prepacked ice cream from reputable manufacturers is sold from registered premises, and with the large number of premises in the area selling ice cream the itinerant vendor has virtually disappeared. The provisions of the Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations, 1947, have been well met during the year and no necessity for action arose. The following table shows the results of sampling:—

Ice Cream Samples from Retailers 1954

Total samples taken	7
Samples in Category 1	6
Samples in Category 2	1
Samples in Category 3	Nil
Samples in Category 4	Nil

The samples are subject to the prescribed methylene blue test for bacteriological cleanliness and it is satisfactory to note that none fell within Categories 3 or 4.

FOOD SHOPS, CAFES AND OTHER FOOD PREMISES

Recorded visits during 1954 were as follows:—

Butchers Shops	124
Cafes and Restaurants	149
Retail Dairies	50
Miscellaneous visits to food shops, etc.	145

Apart from the school meals service and factory canteens there are very few premises catering for large numbers in the area. During the year a comprehensive survey of all school canteens and kitchens was carried out and recommendations made to the appropriate authorities. The preparation of school meals is now concentrated into a small number of premises, mostly of modern construction where adequate facilities exist.

Generally speaking the efforts of the staff have been directed towards securing adequate facilities for hand washing, together with proper means of food storage—particularly perishable goods. The general standard is reasonably good with the exception of one or two transport cafes where structural improvements are overdue. It is regretted that present legislation does not provide for the registration of such catering premises but the following establishments are subject to inspection by the department:

Cafes and Restaurants	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	21
Public Houses (Catering)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	82
Clubs, etc.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Residential establishments	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7
Factory Canteens	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	11
School Canteens	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	13

As a result of informal action during the year the following improvements were recorded:—

New or improved sanitary accommodation	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
New or improved drainage	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Redecoration	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7
Structural alterations or improvements	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3

LICENSED PREMISES

As previously reported, much work has been carried out on the licensed premises in the area as a result of action by the department since 1946. Many now reach a high standard but a few remain where conditions are most unsatisfactory. As a result of the decline in trade and financial limitations the brewery companies are giving serious consideration to the closure of some of the more unsatisfactory premises—at least 3 licences have already been surrendered. This seems to be a desirable course and one to be encouraged, particularly where the cost of reconditioning and modernising the premises is excessive having regard to the small trade involved.

The following is a summary of the work carried out during the year, together with the improvements recorded:—

Total number of licensed premises in area	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	151
Number of visits recorded	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	145
Premises reconstructed or substantially improved	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12
New or improved sanitary accommodation	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8
New or improved drainage	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7
New or improved glass washing facilities	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7
Redecoration, etc.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12

MEAT INSPECTION

Prior to derationing on 1st July, 1954, all meat for the area was derived from 3 Government slaughterhouses in Cambridge, and slaughtering in the district was confined to casualty animals and a few self supplier pigs. Upon receipt of Circular MF4/54 in February all the slaughterhouses remaining in the area were surveyed and fourteen butchers intimated that they wished to resume slaughtering. Two applications were received for licences in respect of new premises. Several meetings were arranged between the Council, the trade, and other interested parties and as a final result eight existing slaughterhouses were brought up to a minimum standard and licensed until 1957. Ministerial permission was obtained to licence the erection and use of one new slaughterhouse. The premises provide adequately for the needs of the 30 butchers in the area having regard to the facilities available for purchasing meat from wholesale suppliers and the availability of the slaughterhouses in Cambridge.

As a result of prompt action, co-operation of the trade, and a mutual understanding of the difficulties, the transition from Government controlled slaughtering to free trading was effected smoothly and, it is thought, to the satisfaction of the majority of the traders. It must be remembered, however, that this is only an interim scheme and that information is still anxiously awaited regarding the policy of "moderate concentration" which so far remains undefined. It is perhaps a matter for regret that after fourteen years of Government control, local authorities were obliged to resort to a hurried re-opening of the old pre-war slaughterhouses, many of which fall far short of modern standards of hygiene. With the future so indefinite only the minimum amount of improvement work could be insisted upon more especially since compensation for closure might arise at a later date. It is to be hoped that a clear policy will emerge without delay in order that both local authorities and the trade can plan ahead to ensure that premises will be available ultimately which will be in keeping with the modern conception of hygienic slaughtering and food handling.

Appended below is a summary of the carcasses inspected and the amount of meat condemned as being unfit for human consumption:—

**SUMMARY OF MEAT INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED
6 MONTHS ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1954**

TABLE 6

	Cattle not Cows	Cows	Calves	Pigs not Sows	Sows	Sheep Lambs
Animals killed and inspected	392	16	20	1,182	15	1,320
All Diseases except T.B. Whole carcasses and offal condemned	—	4	—	5	—	2
Carcasses of which some part or organ condemned	37	1	1	22	2	9
% of number inspected affected with disease other than T.B.	9.4	31.2	5.0	2.3	13.3	0.83
T.B. Only Whole carcasses and offal condemned.	—	—	—	1	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ condemned	22	2	—	33	2	—
% of number inspected affected with T.B.	5.6	12.5	—	2.8	13.3	—
Number of organs or parts condemned— All Diseases						
Head	19	1	—	23	1	1
Lungs	16	2	—	4	1	4
Heart	—	—	—	1	1	—
Liver	24	—	—	8	2	3
Spleen	1	—	—	1	—	—
Diaph.	4	—	—	—	—	—
Kidney	1	—	—	5	2	—
Stomach	—	—	—	1	—	—
Mes.	9	—	—	8	—	—
Other	7	—	1	10	—	1
TOTAL	81	3	1	61	7	9

It will be seen that during the 6 months ending 31st December, 1954, nearly 3,000 animals were inspected, and having regard to the high prices prevailing, butchers were naturally reluctant to purchase and slaughter anything but the higher grade animals. In fact only 16 cows and 15 sows were slaughtered during the year. The incidence of tuberculosis will be noted (5.6% cattle not cows, 12.5% in cows, 2.8% in pigs, and 13.3 in sows). Few casualty animals were encountered.

The incidence of *Cysticercus bovis* was greater than anticipated (1.7%) and affected animals present something of a problem particularly in a rural area where cold storage facilities are not readily available. In some cases only one non-viable cyst was found which was completely calcified and after consultation with the Ministry of Food a policy was adopted whereby such carcasses were jointed in the presence of a Sanitary Inspector and released for consumption if no other evidence of infection was found.

So far it has been possible to carry out a 100% inspection of all animals slaughtered in the area and it is hoped to be able to maintain this policy, the value of which is revealed in the summary of meat condemned. A greater measure of control over times of slaughtering, particularly unreasonable times, would go far in assisting the maintenance of 100% inspection. With slaughterhouses scattered over a large rural area adequate supervision is difficult unless some limitation is imposed on late night activities, bearing in mind that however late slaughtering takes place the meat may be removed from the slaughterhouse by 7 a.m. the next morning.

In general the relationship between the department and the trade is very gratifying.

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT, 1933, Etc.

Licences to slaughter renewed	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	29
New licences issued	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Total on Register 31.12.54	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	32

Licences are issued for periods of 2 years and the requirements of the Act were fully observed on all licensed premises in the area. The provision of Section 3 of the Slaughter of Animals (Amendment) Act, 1954, are welcomed since it enables a 'provisional' licence to be issued. With the return to private slaughtering and the opening of 9 slaughterhouses in the area the number of licensed slaughtermen proved adequate. The attention of all butchers has been drawn to the provisions of the Slaughter of Animals (Prevention of Cruelty) Regulations, 1954, and every effort is made to ensure that the Regulations are complied with.

UN SOUND FOODSTUFFS

The amount of foodstuffs (apart from meat) condemned as unfit was relatively small and mainly consisted of tinned goods in a blown or damaged condition. The advice of the department is promptly sought by all sections of the trade if any doubt arises as to the fitness or otherwise of foodstuffs.

The following is a summary of foodstuffs condemned during the year (excluding meat reported elsewhere):—

Tinned Goods

Vegetables	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5 tins
Milk	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3 tins
Fruit	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	82 tins
Fish	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1 tin
Meat	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	32 tins
Jam	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1 tin

Miscellaneous

Sprats	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6 stone
Potatoes	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7 tons

Most of the affected tinned goods were of foreign origin.

All condemned meat is stained and sent to a local firm for processing into fertilisers, etc. Occasionally, when the reason for condemnation permits the meat is released for sale as knacker's meat.

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